Mr. K. M. Korah (*Vaikom, Kottayam and Changanacherry cum Peermade*) : May I know from the honourable member whether he is aware that certain of these Vigilance Committee members are persons of low status?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: That was the reason why I said I will look into the matter. When I go out on circuit I request the honourable members will co-operate with me and help me in this matter also.

President : The question before the House is that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 7,54,824 under Demand XV—Police.

The motion was carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XVI—AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Director of Agricultur and Fisheries* : Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs 2.68,297 under Demand XVI—Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai (*Kottarakara and Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*) : Sir, I am constrained to make some observations in regard to this demand. Travancore is mainly an agricultural country. The bulk of its population belongs to the agricultural community. Their main occupation is also agriculture. I looked into the budget with great avidity to find some substantial provision for the improvement of th conditions of these people. I confess that I was sorely disappointed. The programme of the Government seems to be one of making the rich richer and the poor poorer. The poor men are called upon to starve and pay for the luxuries of the rich. Cities and towns are improved at the expense of the villages. Sir, I am positively sure that the Government are entirely ignorant of the conditions of these peasants. I represent the biggest agricultural constituency in the State. I am, myself, an agriculturist. I know intimately the condition of these agriculturists. They are in a very miserable plight. Almost ninety per cent. of their holdings have lost their economic importance on account of sub-divisions and fragmentations effected by operation of law.

(At this stage the Dewan-President left the Hall and Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai one of the panel of chairmen, took the Chair).

There are frequent failure of crops on account of drought and inundation. The blizzard of economic depression hits them very hard. The price of agricultural produce has fallen too low that it is not even sufficient to meet the cost of cultivation. The indebtedness of agriculturists is also on the increase to an appalling extent.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr A. Easwara Pillai.]

The ryots are burdened with all kinds of taxation. Their homesteads and their chattels are distrained and sold for arrears of taxes. Squalor, penury and object misery stare them at their face.

Sir, the agricultural policy of the State was clearly and unambiguously laid down by the Dewan-President in his statement before the Joint Session of the Council and the Assembly last year, namely, commercialisation of agriculture and intensive cultivation. This year also that policy was emphasized and reiterated before the Joint Session of the Assembly and the Council by the Dewan-President. I ask Government, what they have done in the matter of carrying out that policy. The agriculturists are not satisfied with the mere enunciation of a policy. They want something substantial. The purchasing of half a dozen sindhi bulls from Sind, and a set of cinema operator, according to me, will not in any way alleviate the distress of these poor people. The Financial Secretary has complacently said that we have a wind-fall this year. I say it does not reflect the condition of the majority of the people in this State. The Governmental machinery is working with incredible velocity and speed in all directions except in regard to agriculture. The department from its inception to the present time seems to be inelastic and inert. The officers appointed in the department do not know what their duties are. The department maintains, in spite of all that, a number of experts. I am told that they are making experiments in all directions with relation to agriculture for the last several years. They have not been able to produce any good result so as to benefit the agriculturists. I do not expect that the department should prove a success in the commercialisation, but I expect some tangible result from the exertion of these studious experts. But they have been sleeping all the while receiving their fat salaries and occupying themselves in their laboratories without doing anything whatsoever. It is a very miserable plight and I do not find any reason for maintaining such an inert department. It is more an ornamental appendage, a mere wastage of public money. I do not advocate the abolition of a department if it is one which is mainly intended for improving the condition of the poor ryots of the State. But I advocate the immediate abolition of a department which is found to be of no help to the agricultural community. The present head of the department is a brilliant young man, patriotic and ambitious. He may be desirous of doing some thing for the good of his own country. But I ask how, with a scanty fund at his disposal and the aid of a set of studious experts, he would be able to do any good to the agriculturists. It is not

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the fault of the head of the department. It is the ignorance of Government in not knowing the actual condition and the miseries of the people. It is the want of consideration and sympathy for the cause of these poor ryots that prevent Government from allotting large amounts and appointing really able persons to control the department.

In this connection I want to point out that the miseries of the people can be well known if the Government enquire into the condition of the rural parts. I venture to make some suggestions for improving the condition of the ryots. Firstly, I suggest that all the development departments, I mean the nation-building departments, be co-ordinated under one able officer so that he may be held responsible for the policy of that department. At present all these departments are managed and controlled by different individuals and, therefore, there is no continuity or co-ordination of policies. Therefore, I suggest that all the nation-building departments be brought under one officer. The next suggesion is that rural reconstruction work such as the starting of Village Punchayats, District Boards, Uplift Societies, and such other useful institutions be started by Government immediately. Thirdly, intensive and extensive cultivation so as to increase the output of food products must be started. A system of collective farming in agriculture should be started immediately. One of the honourable members suggested here that a new system of cultivation is in vogue, some where in North India, called by the name of electro-culture. It is reported in newspapers that it is a very efficient and effective system for improving the growth of plants. That must be experimented here also. In regard to the improvement in the livestock of our country, a real expert must be appointed. There are several experts for various branches of agriculture, and for the breeding of cattle and improvements in that direction, another expert is an absolute necessity. It is a vital question and I ask Government to appoint a real expert for that purpose. A number of cows from Sind or Kathiawar may be bought in this connection for improving the breeding of cattle. Another important suggestion is that a portion of the village population must be drawn into the towns so that unemployment among the villagers could be avoided. The Government should pay particular attention to this matter also.

As I emphatically brought to the notice of Government when the land revenue Demand was under discussion, I suggest that all taxes be abolished from this year onward. With these suggestions, I support the Demand.

Mr. M. Govindan: Sir I rise to support the Demand. In doing so, I wish to make a few observations. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has been in existence here for a fairly

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr M. Govindan.]

long time and the feeling amongst the people is that no sufficient advantage has resulted from the operations of this department. I do admit that the achievements of the department have not succeeded in introducing any staple food for the people to live on. There are many friends here who have got experience in other parts of the world and I was under the impression, that, if sufficient investigation was made on the lines of these countries, it would have been possible for the Travancore Agricultural Department also to find some new food which would serve as a cheap and staple food and be a substitute for the rice that is produced in the country. At the same time it is true that our country cannot go in for the same kind of investigations that are being carried on in England and other places where the climatic conditions are different. But, a place like the West Indies where the climatic conditions are exactly similar to ours can be thought of for investigation purposes. I am sure, by means of investigation, some kind of root food that is introduced there, can be brought about here also.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I ask whether tapioca will not be a sufficient substitute for rice in Travancore?

Mr. M. Govindan: I do not ignore the importance of tapioca. What I say is, tapioca is good enough; but there may be other better materials also. There is a larger wastage in tapioca. much that cannot be easily digested. On investigation it may be possible for the dapartment to find out some big root-like thing as is found in the West Indies which will form a staple food in our country. I am told, the big root-like thing resembling [illegible] serves as food material for a week for an individual and its cost also is only very little. In the case of tapioca, in answer to my friend Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar, I have to point out that it cannot be kept on for longer periods. because it gets a sort of darkish complexion which becomes poisonous.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Then, could it not be preserved in a refrigerator?

Mr. M. Govindan: Perhaps, fish is better preserved than tapioca (*Laughter*).

Another point I have to make is this. I do not make it in a spirit of disparagement or hostile criticism on the present head of the department, or the operations carried on by the department. It is only a suggestion which an expert like Mr. Narayana Aiyar can make use in any way he can.

In regard to the work done by the experts in laboratories, my complaint has all along been that what was done in America, where Mr. Narayana Aiyar was sent for training, has not been made use of by him in the working of his department.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I ask why the system of collecting nitrogen in small sealed tubes as is done in America is not followed here. In fact, is he afraid that the nitrogen that we have in our atmosphere of 50 miles would all be consumed for agricultural purposes and there would be nothing left for purposes of respiration. I have not such a fear. The Americans have been doing that. We have been liberating enough of nitrogen from all dirty matter that is rotating on the soil. It will go on rotation and any deficiency that will be caused by making the natural resources would be replaced. My complaint is that something serious of this nature would be done because our manure is steadily lacking in nitrogen elements and what we are getting is by way of spreading the cowdung. That sort of thing is not enough. Expert knowledge must be made use of.

Now I pass on from the Agricultural Department to the Fisheries Department. There also my complaint is that we are getting only one kind of fish in one season. That is because our fishing is done in a precarious stage and the fishermen cannot venture beyond three miles. To go about 10 miles out to the sea, I believe, no question of international law will come in. In that case we can get any kind of fish in any season. We are getting only seer fish for another month. This sort of thing is not good. If we go sufficiently deep into the sea it will be a great help to the fisher folk and to those consumers of fish. It will also help the Cold Storage Section that has been recently started here. While speaking of the Cold Storage I will be failing in my duty if I do not record my thanks for the very good feast that he gave us and also for the very good fish that he is selling at a fairly cheap rate.

Mr V. S. Arumukham Pillai: May I know whether there is any difference in the taste of the fish that is kept in the Cold Storage Plant?

Mr. M. Govindan: A little difference is inevitable.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar; Does it not emit the same stench?

Mr. M. Govindan: My friend is apparently lacking in experience. The most delicious thing on this earth is the most stenchy thing. The stench is only when it gets rotten. Very good fish is half the happiness of the world. My friend has not the benefit of personal experience. I am only speaking from experience. The Cold Storage Department that has been started is a benefit and it would be well-helped and supported by the suggestion that I have made for deep sea fishing,

There is one another point that I want to mention. My complaint is that they have not introduced any new variety of fish from the numerous water-logged places that we have from one end of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. Govindan.]

country to the other and the number of rivers that we have and the fresh water and the brackish water lakes. We have all these conveniences and I think if I remember correct there is some suggestion that a new acquarium should be started and if you stock the various varities of fish it will be a good addition to the State.

Mr. K. M. Korah : In opposing this demand I wish to draw the attention of Government to one important fact. The people of Shertala Vaikom, Kuttanad and such other places mostly depend upon cocoanut for their existence. A few years have passed since the cocoanut palm disease has begun in those places. We have been told that some expert is doing some experiments whereby some remedy can be suggested. It is a surprise to most of us that this disease has effected even Kuttanad areas which are considered to be very fertile. Nobody has ever suggested any remedy and the pity is that no remedy has been adopted. At this rate, I fear, whether the whole cocoanut plantation may be destroyed. If it is not possible for the present expert to find any remedy, I may respectfully submit that an expert from outside at any cost may be got down, so that the disease may not crop up again and the one that has already cropped up may be avoided. I am sorry, I have to make the remark that, as far as Kuttanad is concerned the Department of Agriculture is not considering the extensive areas we cultivate without any aid from the Government and the risk and uncertainty engendered by the peculiar condition of these lands, it must be admitted that the courage and skill we display are without any parallel. Just immagine that it is the stormy Vembanad that has been converted into paddy fields and that has considerably increased the revenue of the Government My submission is that that part of the land requires more consideration at the hands of the Government. Most of us who are engaged in agriculture know that at present *punja* cultivation in Kuttanad is almost a loosing concern. Unless some new methods are suggested I fear most of us will be forced to avoid cultivation itself.

In this connection I may also bring to the notice of Government certain difficulties which we, the agriculturists in Kuttanad are subjected to on account of floods. There is one peculiar characteristic with reference to floods in Kuttanad by reason of its suddenness and this suddenness may be attributed to the clearence of forests and the sudden flow of rain water into the rivers that flow through Kuttanad. In previous years when there were floods, water usedto disappear immediately, so much so we did not feel much difficulty on that account. The extensive reclamation and the Cochin Harbou-works seem to be the main cause for the greater duration of the floods. As I submitted on another occasion, we have only cocoanu

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

plants and paddy cultivation in Kuttanad. We have no otherwork. Thisconstant and sudden flood every year makes it impossible to raise catch crops. In places other than Kuttanad they have tapioca and other things and even without rise they may be able to pull on. But I may tell youvery frankly that very many poor labourers at present suffer from famine partly due to the absence of work there and partly due to other economic considerations. If it is possible to rise the catch crops they may be able to pull on. Another difficulty is with regard to the keeping of cattle and the consequent deterioration of cultivation. In addition to all these difficulties there are other difficulties, namely the uprooting of cocoanut trees, the reduction of cocoanut crops, due to waterlogging and the inconvenience to the inhabitants caused by the flooding of dwelling houses. Another point which I want to bring to the attention of the Agricultural Department is that there are extensive *Kari* lands from where we get only very small yield. If Government would kindly accept my suggestion, I think we will be relieved a good deal. The remedy that I may respectfully submit for the consideration of the Government is the opening of an exit somewhere between Parakkad and Thottapally of such a design that the sea water cannot get in and flood water may flow out and thus if flood conditions are prevented, I am sure that even *Kari* fields would be able to fetch better results. There is another disadvantage in most of our *punja* lands where we are able to raise only one crop yearly. If the floods are to be prevented double crop may be raised and it will be a source of great help to us.

Chairman : You have got only 2 minutes more.

Mr. K. M. Korah : I hope that Government would very seriously consider this question. With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar : Sir, I support the demand Indoing so, I endorse the view expressed by my honourable friend, Mr. Easvara Pillai about the peculiar needs of Kuttanad. But the amount alloted to the department is too poor. We cannot blame the Government for this. It is a very long time since the department was set up and it has not yet created any good impression in the minds of the people. Sir, the existense of certain farms which are being run by the department, is really a shame to the department. There is a pepper farm at Konni which has consumed a lot of money, It seems that that farm has a good acreage. Generally the yield from one acre of pepper plantation is about half a candy of pepper. But from 60 or 70 acres of pepper cultivation the department gets only 3 or 4 candies of pepper. Then there is another farm for cocoanut cultivation near Ochira. There the whole trees are affected with pests.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai: കോന്നിയിൽ കാട്ടു മുളകേയുള്ളൂഎന്നു മെമ്പർക്കറിയാമൊ ?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: അതേഉള്ളൂ. നല്ലമുളകു കൊടിയല്ല.

Similarly there is another farm near Alleppey known as the Avalukunnu farm planted with cocoanut trees.

Mr. M. Govindan: May I know from the member whether it is as a commercial business that these farms are started or whether it is only to show that the soil can be much improved by ideal manuring ?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Sir, if anybody is to follow the example shown by these farms it is sure as anything that he will be ruined. Therefore, it is my humble opinion that all the trees in these farms may be cut down and sold away and the profits obtained may be utilised for some other beneficial purposes. Our agriculturists are most of them conservatives. They are not prepared to follow each and every advice given to them orally. But if they are convinced of the good results then they will certainly follow the advice. For this purpose, the department must do something tangible. Now the department has 100 and odd stations under the control of the Inspectors and nobody knows where these stations are and what the experiments conducted are. The amounts that are being set apart to be spent on these experimental farms seem to be devoured by the Inspectors There is one *Kari* station at Thottapally and it is quite unfit for paddy cultivation. The surface soil is found to be unsuited for paddy cultivation. Some contract was given to somebody for removing the soil. This was all the work that was done in the farm. But for making the people to be convinced of the fact that soil and cultivation can be much improved, the department should be able to do some sort of experimental cultivation in extensive areas of ryots lands. Let the department divide the ryots lands into two equal parts. Let one be the control plot and the other experimental and let the ryot himself cultivate both the plots. The department need only spent the additional expense needed for the experiment. If improvement can be shown the department can take the cost incurred by it. In this way the department can satisfy the ryot about the superiority of scientific cultivation which fetches more profit.

Sir, in regard to the cocoanut diseases there are two varieties of disease. One type of disease can be remedied. I have myself tried that experiment suggested by the department and it has been found successful so far as the leaf pest diseases are concerned.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

With regard to the root disease the department has not been able to do anything. Some more studied men should be got down even paying a higher salary if necessary to do some experiments and find out a remedy for the root disease.

Now coming to the Agricultural Board I have to say a few words. The Board discuss ever so many matters and send up proposals and recommendations to Government for their consideration. It is a pity that Government do not give due consideration to all their recommendations. Yet, it is gratifying to note that Government have sanctioned this year a sum of Rs. 7,000 for propaganda purpose. I trust that the Director of Agriculture would make the best use of the additional amount granted to the department and try as far as possible to see that the farms now under their control, which he himself will admit cannot be improved, will be disposed off by the Government and the proceeds utilised for some better purpose of the department. With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. N. V. Chacko: Sir, in supporting the Demand I have to add only a few words to what my predecessor has said. We do not enjoy any practical benefit from the department. The agriculturists of Travancore have reached a condition that is almost the limbo of despair and despondency. I think, Sir, that ere long people will be obliged to give up agriculture. Government themselves know that the condition of the agriculturists is very bad and that this condition, they say, will continue for an indefinite time Government seem to have resigned themselves to this condition. They do not seem to be willing to help the agriculturists in any material way or at least to try to help them. The Government and the department should do something to better the lot of the agriculturists.

With reference to the taluks of North Travancore which are subjected to periodical floods and droughts the Agricultural Department, the Land Revenue Department, the Irrigation Department and the Government do not seem to be aware of these facts. In North Travancore we have got the *Mari* or *Myal* lands depending entirely for cultivation on the freaks of nature. In this connection, I may invite the attention of the department to the lack of manure. Manure is not available easily or cheaply. People used to get green manure very cheaply and abundantly. Now they do not get it so. Manure should not be dear or difficult to obtain. It should not be like exporting gold from America. The people should be able to get good manure at least within a distance of a mile or so from their lands.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. N. V. Chacko.]

Sir, the condition of the cattle is also fast deteriorating. People should be able to get good cattle cheaply. There is prevalence of diseases like anthrax and great scarcity of fodder. I would suggest to Government that the department should approach individual cultivators and ordinary peasants and advise them with regard to the cultivation of their lands and the keeping of their cattle in fit condition. With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. James Fletcher (*Kalkulam and Vilavankode* cum *Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I support the Demand. In doing so, I desire to draw the attention of Government with regard to the Shank industry in Travancore. The Shank industry was held as a monopoly by an individual for the last few years. That monopoly comes to a close at the end of this year. Naturally it is expected something will be done with respect to this industry by the beginning of 1114. Perhaps the honourable members may not know much about the shank industry. I may say a few words about that. The shanks are a kind of sea animals which are living in the sea. They are collected by fishermen going far into the sea and diving at the place where they are existing. These are collected in large numbers, brought to the shore and kept for export. Calcutta is the only market for the shanks.

This is a monopoly, this is an industry, peculiar to Travancore, but this industry is carried on in Ceylon and Tuticorin. There are merchants both in Tuticorin as well as in Colombo, who are exporting a large number of shanks to Calcutta. Now, if this shank industry is thrown open to the public, it will shrink in volume to such an extent that all the trade will be in the hands of the Ceylon or Tuticorin people but if the shank industry in Travancore is entrusted to a few moneyed men of this country, I am sure, they would be able to carry on the industry in such a way as to bring a reasonable profit to Government. As I said these shanks when exported outside the border lines bring to the Government a royalty. Thus, the Government will get a reasonable profit if large number of shanks are sent out.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether he wants to make it a monopoly?

Mr. James Fletcher: Not entirely as a monopoly. The right to collect and sell may be given to a few private men. If it is thrown open to all, there will be such competition as will kill the trade. The market is only at Calcutta and the competitors are in various parts of India, namely, Ceylon and Tuticorin. The bigger merchants outside will be able to compete with traders in the Travancore shanks as to dwindle down our trade. Therefore the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Government, before they dispose of the contract for the shanks industry will do well to consult the public. After due consideration, the Governments may give the monopoly or take whatever action they think will be of advantage to Travancore.

Mr. T. K. Kitten (*Vaikam, Kottayam, and Changanacherry, cum Peermade*) : സർ, കൃഷിവകുപ്പിനു ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന പണം അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ കൃഷി അതിന്റെ പരമാവധിയിൽ എത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുവിദഗ്ദ്ധന്മാർ പറയുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതിൽ കൂടുതൽ വിളവു ഉണ്ടാകുകയില്ലെന്നാണു് അവരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം. അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇനിമേൽ ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ സംരക്ഷിച്ചുപോരെണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. കൃഷിയുടെ പരമാവധിയിൽ ഈ രാജ്യം എത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു അടുത്ത കൊല്ലം മുതൽ നിർത്തിക്കളയുകയാണു നല്ലതു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഭൂമിയിലുള്ള വളം മുഴുവൻ നശിച്ചുപോയി എന്നു് മി; ടാഡ്സൺ ഇവിടെ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇവിടെ ഭൂമിക്കു പരിഷ്കൃതജാതി വളംമിടുന്ന പതിവു സാധാരണ വളരെ ചുരുക്കമാണു്. യൂറോപ്പിലെ പരിചയംവച്ചുകൊണ്ടു മി: ടാഡ്സൺ ഇതെല്ലാം പറഞ്ഞതാണു്. ഭൂമിയിൽനിന്നും ആണ്ടുതോറും എന്തെങ്കിലും പിടുങ്ങി എടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശം മാത്രമെ ഇവിടെയുള്ളവക്കുള്ളൂ. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും ലഘുലേഖകൾ വഴിയും വർത്തമാനപത്രങ്ങൾ മുഖേനയും മറ്റും വലിയ പ്രചരണവേലകൾ നടത്തുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ജനങ്ങൾ വിളവിന്റെ വർദ്ധനവിനായി യാതൊരു വളവും ചെയ്യാറില്ല. ഇതു മറ്റൊന്നുകൊണ്ടുമല്ല. ചക്രമില്ലാത്ത ഒരു കുറവുകൊണ്ടു മാത്രമാണു്. ജനങ്ങൾ അതുകൂടാതെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുകയാണു്. ഒരു വലിയ സംഖ്യയ്ക്കാണു് ഇന്നവർ കടപ്പെട്ടുകിടക്കുന്നതു് അതുകൊണ്ടു പുതിയ സംപ്രദായത്തിൽ കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനു വളം വാങ്ങിക്കുവാനുള്ള പണം ജനങ്ങൾക്കില്ല. കൃഷി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടുപോകണമെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു നിർബന്ധിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു ക്ലർക്കു കൃഷി അതിന്റെ പരമാവധിയിലായിപ്പോയി എന്നു് പറയുകയുംചെയ്യുന്നു. മന്ത്രിയ്ക്കു ഇതെല്ലാം സമ്മതിക്കേണ്ടിയും ഇരിക്കുന്നു. ഏതായാലും ഇപ്പോൾ തയാറാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്ന കണക്കുപ്രകാരമുള്ള പണം ഈയാണ്ടത്തേക്കു അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു ഞാനും പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, the debate on this demand has covered a very wide range. But the only satisfaction is that in contradistinction to what used to be in the previous years',

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar.]

the criticisms to a certain extent have been of a constructive nature. With the time at my disposal, I shall try to answer some of the charges that have been levelled against the department.

Mr. Easwara Pillai said that the department had not fully justified itself, particularily, the research section of it. I repudiate that charge. I invite the honourable member's attention to the large amount of work that has been done by the various sections of the research laboratory that is attached to the department and that is summarised in the Proceedings of the first meeting of the Board of Agriculture in Travancore. The soil surveys of Nanjinad and Kuttanad conducted with a view to improve the growth of paddy have yielded hopeful results. Similarly the paddy-growing tracts of Shertala and Vaikam taluks have been surveyed and the soils examined. These surveys include the results of the analyses of not less than a thousand samples. If the honourable member will go through those reports carefully he will find that the general manurial difficiencies of all these lands are given there. Exactly similar is the position with regard to entomology, mycology and economic botany. In all these fields a considerable amount of work has been done and the results have been of immense value. Commensurate with the men and resources placed at the disposal of the department, I should say that the results achieved have been fully satisfactory.

Mr. Easwara Pillai chararactised the department as a mere ornament and said that it has not cared for the agriculturists who is at fault? The department has done in the past and is doing now even with more vigour all that it can by way of research, demonstration and propaganda. But it is up to the honourable members to be the real propagandists on behalf of the department and to disseminate the knowledge which we give to their less fortunate brothren. There is a gulf to be bridged between the department and the public, and here it is that I want the co-operation of the honourable members who say that they represent the agricultural interests of the country.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Has anything been done to carry on collective farming?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: As a matter of fact that is a problem which is now under the consideration of a sub-committee of the economic Development Board. I wish people will come forward and help us in consolidating their fragmented holdings and to carry on agriculture on co-operative lines.

The Government have fully realised the very pitiable plight in which the agriculturist has been placed now. To relieve him

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of his indebtendness, they have recently initiated the Credit Bank, which wlll come into operation almost immediately. Loans on long and easy terms, which I suppose the agriculturists will really use for the purposes for which they are intended, will be advanced to the agriculturists. But unfortunately what we find to day is that most of these agricultural loans are utilised for making ornaments; for putting up bunglows and other malafide purposes.

As regards rural reconstruction, sir, in the nature of things, it is imposible for the Government to foist the scheme on the people. The initiative must come from the people themselves. If they come forward, the department will help them in every way.

Coming to my friend Mr. Govindan who advocates that a root which is now grown in the Philipines or East Indies should be introduced into Travancore, I am absolutely unaware of the existence of any such special root. If introduced into Travancore I will be the first person to oppose it. It is a starchy food and it is not necessary here where tapioca is already doing sufficient havoc to the health of the people. The peoples' health will deteriorate to a considerable extent on account of the introduction of another farinacious crop.

Sir, my honourable friend put forward a theory of breaking up the nitrogen in the air and putting it into tubes. The idea is fantastic. The atmosphere contains nitrogen and the simple way to extract it is by the cultivation of what is called the 'leguminous crops.' Ordinary green peas contain nodules which contain bacteria, capable of absorbing nitrogen and fixing it on to the soil.

Reference was made to the possibility of investigating deep sea fishing. This is a question which has already engaged the attention of the Government and the honourable members are aware that a well-qualified Marine Biologist has been appointed in the University and it will be one of his tasks to investigate how far the deep could be tapped as a source of wealth in the form of fish.

Next, regarding the observation which was made by Mr. Korah concerning coconut palm disease, I wish to say that this is a disease not peculiar to Travancore alone but it is prevalent through out the whole world wherever you have co-coanut palms. In the Dutch West Indies, in Ceylon in the East Indies, wherever you go, you find there this disease. The problem is, no doubt very serious. The Government do not for a moment think that it is very insignificant. As a matter of fact, they have fully realised the seriousness of the situation. As soon as this Government became a constituent of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, this matter was brought to their attention and a case was made out.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar.]

The result, as the honourable members are aware, the Imperial Council have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 25,500 for investigating the disease in all its varied aspects. I can say that the investigations that have been carried out so far (now) show that we could hold certain organims directly responsible for the causation of this disease. When once the disease is properly diagonsed, it would be easy to remdy it. It is expected that the investigation will yield hopful results.

Mr. Korah made certain observations regarding the peculiar conditions of the soil of Kuttanad, particularly, the backwater reclamation area. He said that the attention of the Government has not been directed to that area.....

Mr. K. M. Korah: I said that attention was not given to the extent to which it was desired.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: I claim, Sir, that the department has paid considerable attention to Kuttanad. I believe it is now about 15 years since we conducted definite manurial experiments for Kuttanad and found out that the chief deficience's of the soil there are acidity and phosphate depletion. I am glad the honourable member stated that the people of Kuttanad have found out the advantage in applying lime, and are now increasingly making use of lime, as a soil ameliorant.

Sir, the main defect so far as Kuttanad is concerned is the pernicious practice of the agriculturists there, of letting into the field the intensely saline water soon after harvest. The department has issued several pamphlets and done a great deal of propaganda pointing out the evil effects of this practice. The saline water gets into the clayey soil, and the salts which are imjurious to the crop stick on there. It is up to the honourable members hailing from Kuttanad to help the department in its propaganda work against this pernicious practice which, if unchecked, will ultimately render the soils more or less barren.

The Demand was then, put to vote and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XVII—INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT INCLUDING THE CLAY REFINING AND THE PORCELAIN FACTORY.

Mr. C. Kumara Das: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 4,52,989, under Demand XVII—Industries Department, including the Clay-refining and the Porcelain Factory.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly